



Haute-Provence & the Southern Alps

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Auberge le Robur (p262)
- ➔ Restaurant Le 9 (p249)
- ➔ La Ferme Girerd-Potin (p260)
- ➔ La Bastide de Moustiers (p255)
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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Moonlight Chalet (p263)
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Why Go?

Provence might conjure up images of rolling fields and gentle hills, but west of the Luberon you'll find yourself traveling through altogether more dramatic landscapes. Rising like a tooth-lined jawbone along the border with Italy, just an hour's drive north of Nice, lie the Alps – France's most famous mountain range, a haven for mountaineers, hikers and wildlife-spotters, and home to some of the region's most unforgettable scenery.

Cloaked in snow well into springtime, the mountains of Haute-Provence are divided by six main valleys, connected by some of the highest and most hair-raising road passes anywhere in Europe – an absolute must for road-trippers. At the heart of the area sprawls the huge Parc National du Mercantour, home to a host of rare wildlife, mountain-top villages and pristine natural habitats. Make sure you keep the camera close to hand: there's a picture around every corner.

Driving Distances (km)

Castellane	75			
Digne-les-Bains	76	45		
Forcalquier	120	83	48	
Moustiers Ste-Marie	125	35	47	51
Barcelonnette				
Castellane				
Digne-les-Bains				
Forcalquier				



Haute-Provence & Southern Alps Highlights

- 1 Trace the unforgettable clifftop roads around the **Gorges du Verdon** (p251).
- 2 Ride the **Train des Pignes** (p257) through the

- mountains from Nice to Digne-les-Bains.
- 3 Hike through the high mountains around **St-Martin-Vésubie** (p262).

- 4 Watch semi-wild wolves at the **Alpha wildlife reserve** (p262).
- 5 Conquer Europe's highest road pass, the **Col**